



Community Information Summary

Mauritius-born

Historical Background

Mauritius has a long connection with Australia dating back to the establishment of a trading relationship after the Peace of Amiens (1802-03). Between 1820 and 1834, the Catholic Church in Australia was officially administered from Mauritius.

Early immigrants to Australia included Mauritian convicts, prospectors who came to the Victorian goldfields and skilled sugar workers who made a significant contribution to the development of the Queensland sugar industry. Sugar from Mauritius had been a major import to Australia in the 19th Century.

In the first half of the 20th Century, the number of Mauritius-born in Australia fell steadily, from 740 at the 1901 Census to 240 at the 1947 Census. With the end of World War II, significant migration to Australia recommenced. Most of those who migrated were Franco-Mauritians, as the immigration restrictions at the time excluded non-Europeans from entry to Australia and required that prospective settlers be 'at least 75 per cent European'.

By the early 1960s, there were about 1580 Mauritians living in Australia. As Mauritius progressed towards universal suffrage, self-government and finally independence, some Mauritians found themselves in a less privileged position and were more inclined to emigrate. About 14 000 Mauritians left their homeland between 1966 and 1972, some migrating to Australia.

Given the size of Mauritius, the number of Mauritians in Australia is surprisingly substantial. Numbers have increased steadily over the past 30 years. The 1971 Census recorded 7630 Mauritius-born living in Australia; and by the 2011 Census their number had increased to 23 280.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2011 recorded 23 280 Mauritius-born people in Australia, an increase of 28.1 per cent from the 2006 Census. The 2011 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 11 600 followed by New South Wales (5752), Western Australia (3932) and Queensland (1476).

Refer to Figure 1.

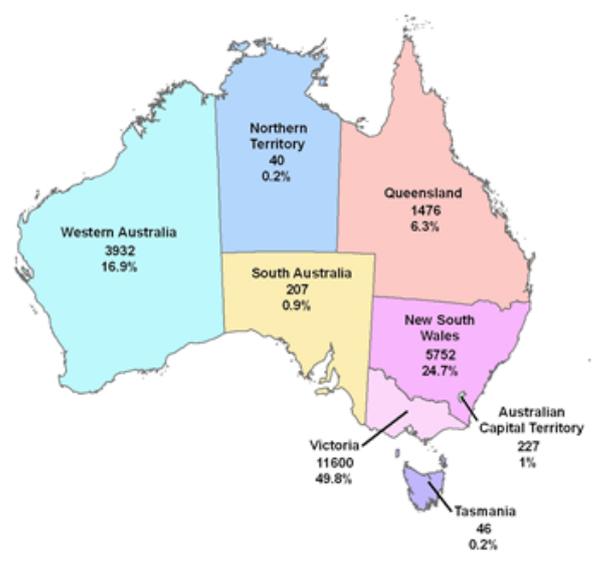


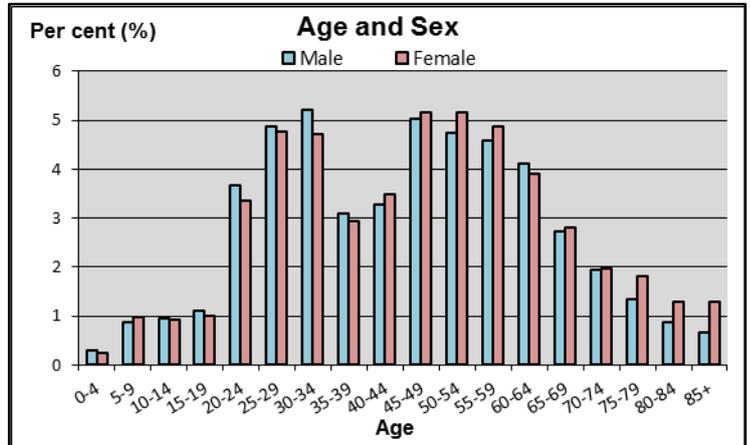
Figure 1

Age and Sex

The median age of the Mauritius-born in 2011 was 47 years compared with 45 years for all overseas-born and 37 years for the total Australian population.

The age distribution showed 4.2 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 9.1 per cent were 15-24 years, 32.4 per cent were 25-44 years, 37.6 per cent were 45-64 years and 16.7 per cent were 65 years and over.

Of the Mauritius-born in Australia, there were 11 492 males (49.4 per cent) and 11 787 females (50.6 per cent). The sex ratio was 97.5 males per 100 females.

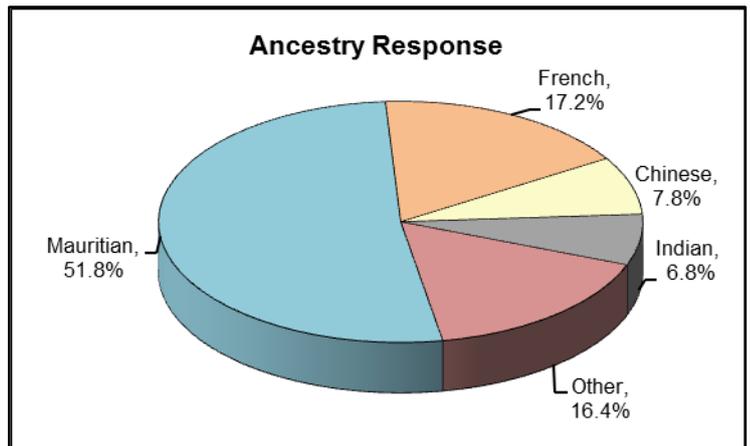


Ancestry

In the 2011 Census, the top ancestry responses* that Mauritius-born people reported were Mauritian (13 651), French (4536) and Chinese (2057).

In the 2011 Census, Australians reported around 300 different ancestries. Of the total ancestry responses*, 28 045 responses were towards Mauritian ancestry.

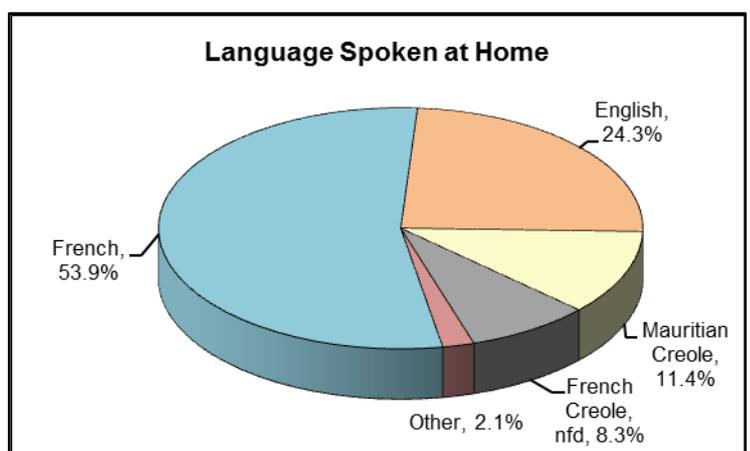
*At the 2011 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Mauritius-born people in Australia were French (12 545), English (5665) and Mauritian Creole (2654).

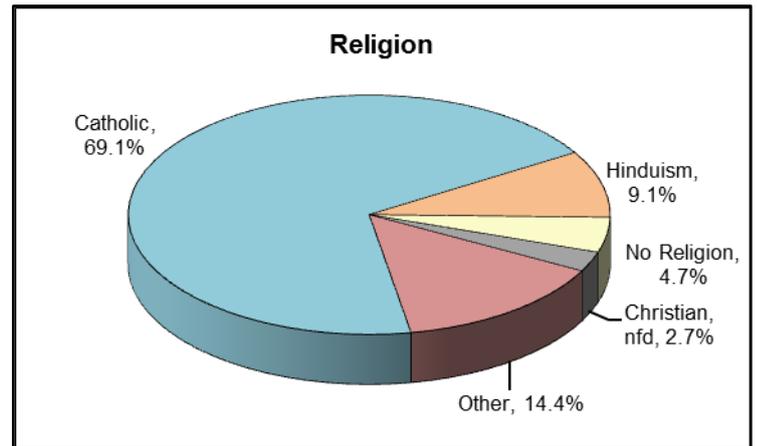
Of the 17 616 Mauritius-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 95.7 per cent spoke English very well or well and 3.1 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2011 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Mauritius-born were Catholic (16 079), Hinduism (2110) and Christian, nfd (629).

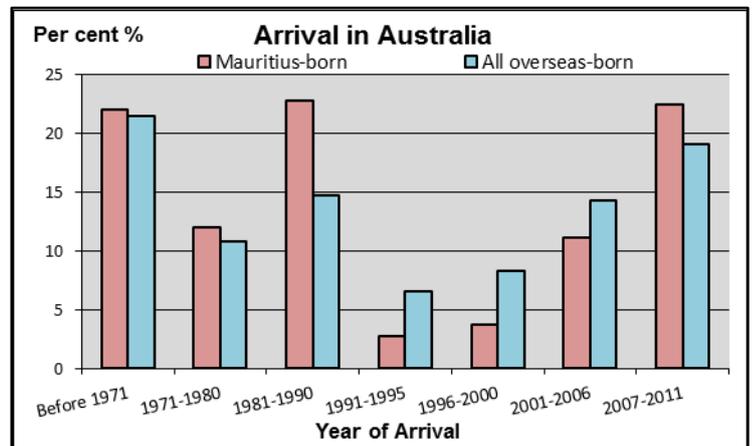
Of the Mauritius-born, 4.7 per cent stated 'No Religion' which was lower than that of the total Australian population (22.3 per cent), and 2.1 per cent did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 62 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 63.4 per cent of the Mauritius-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 2001.

Among the total Mauritius-born in Australia at the 2011 Census, 11.2 per cent arrived between 2001 and 2006 and 22.5 per cent arrived between 2007 and 2011.



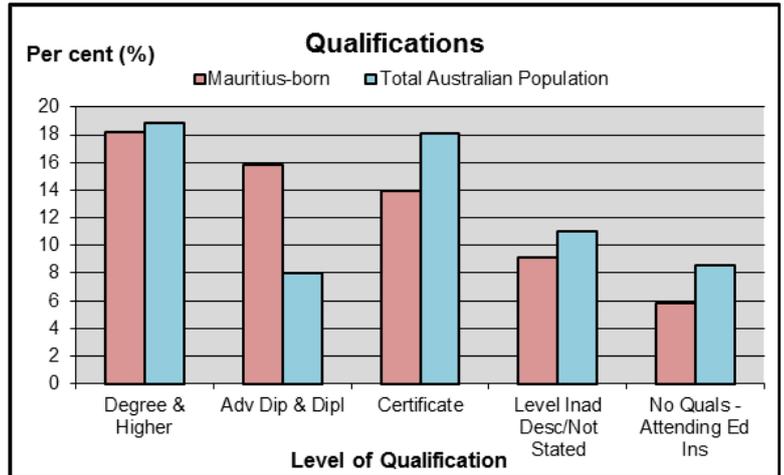
Median Income

At the time of the 2011 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Mauritius-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$593, compared with \$538 for all overseas-born and \$597 for all Australia-born. The total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of \$577.

Qualifications

At the 2011 Census, 57.1 per cent of the Mauritius-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non-school qualifications compared to 55.9 per cent of the Australian population.

Of the Mauritius-born aged 15 years and over, 5.8 per cent were still attending an educational institution. The corresponding rate for the total Australian population was 8.6 per cent.

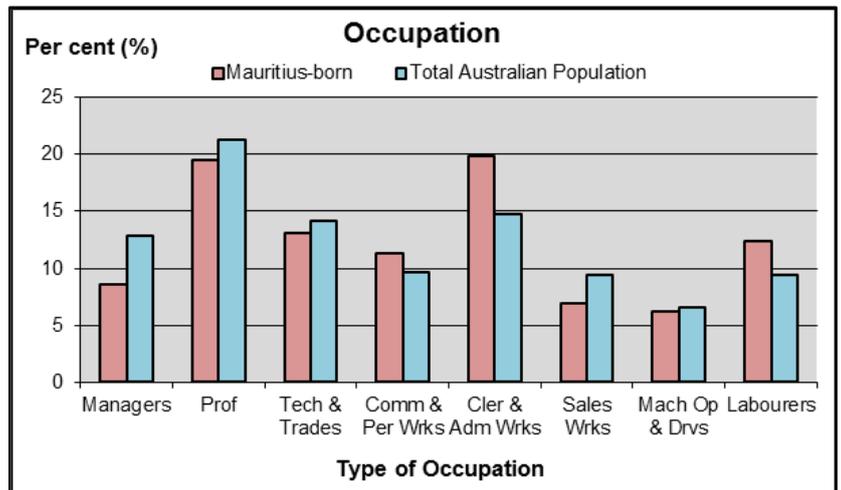


Level Inad Desc/Not Stated = Education level inadequately described or not stated
No Quals - Attending Ed Ins = No qualifications and still attending educational institution

Employment

Among Mauritius-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 68.4 per cent and the unemployment rate was 5.8 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 65 per cent and 5.6 per cent respectively.

Of the 14 100 Mauritius-born who were employed, 41.1 per cent were employed in either a skilled managerial, professional or trade occupation. The corresponding rate in the total Australian population was 48.4 per cent.



Comm & Per Wrks = Community & Personal Service Workers

Produced by Community Relations Section of DIAC

All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. Sources for the Historical Background available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/source.htm>